

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner again for allowing claim 17 and maintaining the allowable subject matter indicated in the previous Action. Only claim 3 has been rejected.

Claim 3 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 4, which depended from claim 3. Consequently, claim 4 has been canceled as redundant. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to correct their dependencies. Claim 18 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of previously presented claim 3. No new matter had been added by any amendment.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Siniaguine U.S. Patent Pub No. 2002/0013061 and Fisher U.S. Patent No. 6,534,379. In view of the amendments, this rejection is moot.

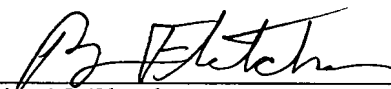
Entry of the amendments after final rejection is appropriate here because each of the pending claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants solicit early action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952, referencing Docket No. 606402016900.

Respectfully submitted,

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